Plan to connect gas pipeline fron upper Assam

856. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to connect gas pipeline from upper Assam fields to have wider spread effects for generation of economic activities; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Oil India Limited (OIL) has an integrated pipeline network for collection of gas produced in the upper Assam field. The gas is mainly being supplied by the Assam Gas Company which is a carrier of OIL's gas. OIL is also supplying gas directly to a few consumers.

Petrol and Diesel Outlets in Orissa

857. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol and diesel retail outlets set up in Orissa during the last two years district-wise and proposed to be set up in 2000-2001; and

(b) the places for which surveys, etc. have been undertaken and places which have been included in the Marketing Plan for opening of such outlets in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto January, 2000) Oil Companies have commissioned 22 retail outlets in Orissa.

On the basis of feasibility survey 30 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the current retail outlet marketing plan (1996—98) for Orissa.

Dealer Selection Board have since been dissolved. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of dealership/distributorship from the date of interview.

Production at Panipat Refinery

858. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production at panipat Refinery during 1998 and 1999;

(b) what are the losses during these two years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Total production of petroleum products at Panipat Refinery during the year 1998-99 and April-December, 1999 is given as under:—

Figures in Thousand Tonnes (TMT)

1998-99	1908
April-Dec., 1999	2417

(b) As compared to targets, production during the year 1998-99 and April-December, 1999 was less by 1297 TMT and 236 TMT, respectively.

(c) Loss in production was mainly due to delay in project completion/commissioning resulting from delayed supply of equipment by vendors and subsequent teething problems cropping up during stabilisation of major process units.

(d) All the design deficiencies in the plant were taken up Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) with the Project Management & Engineering Consultant - Engineers India Limited (EIL) for the project. Several steps have been taken up by Indian Oil Corporation